

Flood and Erosion Hazard Protection

To protect property from flood and erosion hazard damage, consider the following ...

Understand more about your flood and erosion risk.

- ✓ Check with City Engineering staff who can provide floodplain information and the extent of past flooding in your area, the causes of repetitive flooding, what the City of Tucson is doing about it, and what would be an appropriate flood protection level.
- ✓ Check out FEMA website at: <https://www.floodsmart.gov/floodsmart/>
- ✓ Engineering Staff can also provide erosion hazard setback information, as well as info about our recently adopted Floodplain Management Plan, which is an update to our Tucson Stormwater Management Study.
- ✓ City of Tucson Engineering staff can visit your property to discuss flood protection alternatives.

Prepare for Tucson's summer Monsoon flooding by doing the following:

- ✓ Know how to shut off the electricity and gas to your house when a flood comes.
- ✓ Make a list of emergency numbers and identify a safe place to go.
- ✓ Make a household inventory, especially of basement contents.
- ✓ Put insurance policies, valuable papers, medicine, etc., in a safe place.
- ✓ Collect and put cleaning supplies, camera, waterproof boots, etc., in a handy place.
- ✓ Develop a disaster response plan. See Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) website <https://www.osha.gov/dts/weather/flood/> for info about preparing your home and family for a disaster. See also <https://www.fema.gov/vi/media-library/assets/documents/89518>
- ✓ Get a copy of *Repairing Your Flooded Home*. We have copies at the 1st floor Public Works building, Engineering counter, or it can be found at the Joel D Valdez Main Downtown Library, 101 N Stone Av, Tucson 85701.
- ✓ Follow Twitter [@Tucson_DOT](https://twitter.com/Tucson_DOT) for road closure, construction updates, Monsoon sandbag availability, and other TDOT tweets.

Consider some permanent flood protection measures.

- ✓ Mark your fuse or breaker box to show the circuits to the floodable areas. Turning off the power to the basement before a flood can reduce property damage and save lives.
- ✓ Consider elevating your house above flood levels.
- ✓ Check your building for water entry points, such as basement windows, the basement stairwell, doors, and dryer vents. These can be protected with low walls or temporary shields. Dry floodproofing your building helps to prevent stormwater from getting into it. Wet floodproof portions of the building helps to prevent stormwater from causing damage to other parts of the building.
- ✓ Elevate the building above the flood level.
- ✓ Locate new buildings outside of erosion hazard setbacks.
- ✓ Elevate damage-prone components, such as the furnace or air conditioning unit.
- ✓ Install a floor drain plug, standpipe, overhead sewer, or sewer backup valve to prevent sewer backup during flooding.
- ✓ Construct a berm or redirect drainage away from the building.
- ✓ Demolish the building or relocate it out of harm's way.
- ✓ Maintain nearby watercourses free of trash and fill so debris does not obstruct them.

- ✓ More information can be found at FEMA's website, www.ready.gov/floods
- ✓ Note that some flood protection measures may need a building permit, floodplain use permit, or grading permit, and others may not be safe for your type of building, so be sure to talk to City of Tucson staff.

Look at other options.

- ✓ Talk to PCRFCDD about option for county to consider purchasing flood prone property. Detailed information about the Flood Acquisition Program (FLAP) can be found at <http://webcms.pima.gov/cms/one.aspx?portalId=169&pageId=64919>
- ✓ When moving, look for property that is not within a high-risk flood area and not located in an erosion hazard setback.

Get a flood insurance policy.

- ✓ Homeowner's insurance policies do not cover damage from floods. However, because our community participates in the National Flood Insurance Program, you can purchase a separate flood insurance policy. This insurance is backed by the Federal government and is available to everyone, even properties that have been flooded. Because our community participates in the Community Rating System, you will receive a 20 % reduction in the insurance premium if your building is located in a high risk zone or 10 % for locations in moderate to low risk flood areas.
- ✓ If your area is not mapped as a Special Flood Hazard Area, you may qualify for lower-cost Preferred Risk Policy.
- ✓ Some people have purchased flood insurance because it was required by the bank when they got a mortgage or home improvement loan. Usually these policies just cover the building's structure and not the contents. During the kind of flooding that happens in your area, there is usually more damage to the furniture and contents than there is to the structure. Be sure you have contents coverage.
- ✓ Don't wait for the next flood to buy insurance protection. In most cases, there is a 30-day waiting period before National Flood Insurance Program coverage takes effect.
- ✓ Contact your insurance agent for more information on rates and coverage.

Report Drainage Issues.

- ✓ Report illegal dumping to Code Enforcement staff. Dumping in our washes can cause increased flood hazards and is against Tucson Codes.
- ✓ If you see a drainage or erosion problem, (breach in watershed, drainage structure damage, subsidence hole, or other hazard) please contact City staff.

For contact information for the specific staff that can address each of these options, email TucsonFloodErosionInfo@tucsonaz.gov